AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (currently amended) A portable air filtering apparatus comprising:

a face mask adapted to be held to a user's head by straps;

an exhaust filter positioned on said face mask;

at least one one-way inlet valve positioned on said face mask for optimal air flow into said face mask;

a one-way outlet valve positioned over said exhaust filter for optimal exhaust release through said exhaust filter and out of said face mask;

a blower housing ~~adjacent~~ positioned apart from said face mask, said blower housing comprising a plurality of walls defining ~~defined by~~ a pressure plenum and a vacuum plenum, said vacuum plenum defined by a perimeter wall and a frontal wall of said blower housing;

at least one tube connecting said face mask directly to said blower housing;

a power means ~~attached outside~~ positioned in association with said blower housing;

a blower positioned within said blower housing between said vacuum plenum and said pressure plenum, said blower ~~having an air flow means and~~ driven by said power means;

flow openings through said blower housing, said flow openings comprising at least one outlet port extending from said pressure plenum of said blower housing and at least one inlet port in flow communication with said vacuum plenum of said blower housing, said at least one inlet port defining a flow opening comprising a major portion of an area of said frontal wall of said blower housing; and

at least one filter cartridge removably attached ~~outside~~ to said blower housing and positioned over said ~~flow openings~~ at least one inlet port.

Claim 2 (currently amended) The portable air filtering apparatus of claim 1 wherein said at least one filter cartridge comprises two separate parallel flow filters, each of said filters secured by wire mesh to said filter cartridge.

Claim 3 (original) The portable air filtering apparatus of claim 2 further comprising a means for securing said at least one filter cartridge to said blower housing.

Claim 4 (original) The portable air filtering apparatus of claim 3 wherein said means for securing said at least one filter cartridge to said blower housing comprises a rotation assembly having channels located on said at least one filter cartridge and a corresponding number of connectors placed on said blower housing.

Claim 5 (original) The portable air filtering apparatus of claim 4 wherein said power means comprises a battery cassette or an AC adaptor.

Claim 6 (original) The portable air filtering apparatus of claim 5 wherein said air flow means comprises a fan or impeller.

Claim 7 (original) The portable air filtering apparatus of claim 6 wherein said at least one tube connects to said face mask by way of a gasket.

Claim 8 (original) The portable air filtering apparatus of claim 7 wherein said at least one tube further comprises primary tubing connected to said blower housing and two lengths of secondary tubing connected to said face mask.

Claim 9 (original) The portable air filtering apparatus of claim 8 wherein said primary tubing and said secondary tubing are connected by way of a Y-connector.

Claim 10 (currently amended) A method for use of a portable air filtering apparatus comprising the steps of:

verifying a filter cartridge located on a blower housing of said air filtering apparatus is clean, said filter cartridge being removably attached to ~~the outside of~~ said blower housing and covering at least one inlet port flow ~~openings~~ opening on said blower housing;

positioning said blower housing on a user's body, said blower housing having a blower positioned therein with an air flow means and driven by a power means;

turning said air filtering apparatus to an ON position;

rotating said air flow means to begin air flow through said filter cartridge;

placing a face mask of said air filtering apparatus over said user's nose and mouth, said face mask having an exhaust filter for removal of exhaled gases, at least one one-way inlet valve positioned thereon for optimal air flow into said face mask, and a one-way outlet valve positioned over said exhaust filter for optimal removal of exhaled gases out of said face mask;

passing outside air through said filter cartridge forming filtered air;

flowing said filtered air through said at least one inlet port flow ~~openings~~ opening into said blower housing; and

forcing said filtered air out of the blower housing into at least one tube for passage to said face mask.

Claims 11 – 19 (cancelled)